



## **Memorandum**

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 5, 2015*

*Subject: Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## **Introduction**

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 5, 2015. Monitoring will continue on a daily basis through completion of tree removal activities for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. This monitoring is being conducted in compliance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and Amendment issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the project.

## **Methods**

Biological monitoring was conducted by Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith biologist on January 5, 2015, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 4:15 p.m. During the monitoring, the biologist observed tree removal activities as they were conducted in the project area. Tree removal activities generally consisted of manually hauling the trees that had already been cut and placing them into a chipper.

The following sections provide the biologist's field log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## **Biologist's Field Log**

7:00 am. Biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site), entered gate at eastern end of site and visually surveyed the Eucalyptus trees for monarch butterflies. Temperature was approximately 50 degrees F, and no monarchs were observed flying around or in the trees. Trees were still in the shade at this time.

7:30 am. Biologist left the area and went to the western end of site to meet tree removal contractors.

8:30 am. Conducted biological awareness training for tree removal contractors. All participants signed in. Presented fact sheet explaining measures to be followed to ensure no wildlife are harmed. Described the wildlife species that may be present and the need for careful observation of the trees as they are moved to ensure no contact with birds, butterflies, or other wildlife species.

Explained that monarchs are at the site and will be more active as the temperature rises during the day. Instructed contractors to stop work immediately if any wildlife are observed and to allow wildlife to move out of the area.

9:00 am. Biologist walked back to eastern end of site and observed monarchs beginning to fly around trees as the sun is now on the trees and temperature has risen to about 55 degrees F. Four monarchs were noted flying around the trees inside the Basin fence.

9:30 am. Biologist walked back to western end of site. Contractors (8 workers and a foreman) began chipping the cut trees. Chipper was located just inside the gate. Birds were noted to be occasionally flying in and around the piles of cut trees, but would fly away when workers approached and began moving the trees. Two monarchs were noted flying around the vicinity but were not harmed by chipping activities.

10:20 am. Truck was filled with woodchips, so stopped work to move the other truck in place.

10:45 am. Began chipping again. Biologist continued to observe and noted there was no wildlife harmed.

11:45 am. Completed filling the 2<sup>nd</sup> truck. All of the cut trees in the vicinity of the southwestern portion of the site had been chipped. Some workers began hauling trees from further east along the southern side of the Basin but then it was decided to move the truck to the eastern gate once it is emptied.

1:30 pm. Biologist walked to eastern end of site near bike path to observe monarchs around the Eucalyptus trees. A total of 12 monarchs were observed flying around and landing on the Eucalyptus trees, both inside and outside the fence. Monarchs also sometimes landed on the ground, opening and closing their wings. Area was in full sun and temperature was about 72 degrees F.

1:50 pm. Contractors opened the eastern gate and backed the chipper and truck down the driveway. Biologist pointed out the monarchs and explained to the workers they needed to be very careful when moving the cut trees to the chipper to ensure no monarchs are on the trees as they move them, or on the ground where they are walking.

2:05 pm. Contractors began chipping trees. Biologist observed no monarchs or other wildlife were harmed.

3:30 pm. Eucalyptus trees are now completely shaded and monarch activity is minimal. A few (3-4) monarchs observed flying around the trees, but they are no longer flying near the ground.

4:10 pm. Completed chipping as truck is full. Activities are completed at the site for the day. No wildlife were harmed.

## Additional Observations

Throughout the day, the biologist observed several birds, as listed in Table 1. As described previously, monarch butterflies were also observed. A fox squirrel was observed in the trees along the bike path. No other wildlife species were observed.

No osprey were observed at the site.

Soil disturbance at the site is minimal from workers walking along the tops of slopes and dragging cut trees to the chippers. Myoporum tree stumps were cut above the ground and remain in place. There is new vegetation growth (grasses and herbaceous species) that is stabilizing the soil. In addition, vegetation (pickleweed and sea lavender) remains in place at a low elevation around the perimeter of much of the Basin, which would also catch soil from washing off into the Basin.

No active bird nests were observed inside the project boundary, along the bike path, or within Yvonne Burke Park near the site. Within the project boundary, there are 2 inactive and/or old nests- both located in large Eucalyptus trees in the southeast portion of the project site along Admiralty Way. Near the western end of the site, a male Anna's hummingbird was observed doing a display that could indicate courtship; however, no nest or other indication of breeding was observed.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring.

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 5, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Gull	<i>Larus</i> sp.	Several flyovers
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several observed around Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1 individual foraging at eastern portion of Basin
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Two individuals foraging around Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed in flying over Basin
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	2-3 individuals foraging in southern portion of Basin
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1 individual observed in eastern portion of Basin
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis celata</i>	1 individual foraging in eastern portion of Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals foraging around Basin
White-crowned sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	1 individual observed in vegetation in fencerow at western end of Basin

Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Several observed foraging at eastern end of Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Several observed in vegetation around Basin

## Conclusions

Biological monitoring was conducted on January 5, 2015 during tree removal (chipping) activities at the site. Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Several bird species are present, foraging around the Basin. No active nests were observed.
2. Several monarchs (12 were counted) are present at the site. Monarchs appear to be utilizing the Eucalyptus trees near the eastern end of the site, along the bike path, during cooler temperatures. During warmer temperatures (60 degrees F and higher), they are more active, flying around up high and down near the ground, sometimes landing on the ground. The monarchs appear to be opportunistic foragers; individuals were observed flying around all parts of the site. There was no "take" of monarchs during tree chipping activities conducted at the site.
3. Soil disturbance was minimal and the soil is stable due to existing vegetation that remains in place as well as new vegetative growth.



## **Memorandum**

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 6, 2015*

*Subject: Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## **Introduction**

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 6, 2015. Monitoring is being conducted on a daily basis through completion of tree removal activities for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. This monitoring is being conducted in compliance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and Amendment issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the project.

## **Methods**

Biological monitoring was conducted by Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith biologist on January 6, 2015, beginning at 8:00 am and ending at 4:20 p.m. During the monitoring, the biologist observed tree removal activities as they were conducted in the project area. Tree removal activities generally consisted of manually hauling the trees that had already been cut and placing them into a chipper.

The following sections provide the biologist's field log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## **Biologist's Field Log**

8:00 am. Biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and met with County staff and contractors to discuss schedule for the day. Contractors plan to complete chipping the material at the east gate, then move truck and chipper to the area west of the pump station along the inside of the fence. Contractors began cutting through the railing at the pump station to allow their truck to get through.

8:30 am. Biologist visually surveyed the Eucalyptus trees near the east gate for monarch butterflies. Temperature was approximately 60 degrees F, and only 1 monarch was observed flying. Trees were still in the shade at this time.

9:00 am. Conducted biological awareness training for tree removal contractors. All participants signed in. Most contractors were present on site the day prior and had already received training,

but there were 1 or 2 new workers so the training was repeated. The biologist instructed workers about the measures to be followed to ensure no wildlife are harmed during the day's activities. The biologist described the wildlife species that may be present and the need for careful observation of the trees as they are moved to ensure no contact with birds, butterflies, or other wildlife species. Explained that monarch butterflies are present in this area of the site in particular. Pointed out a monarch that was flying nearby, noting that they will be more active as the temperature rises during the day. Instructed contractors to stop work immediately if any wildlife are observed and to allow wildlife to move out of the area.

9:30 am. Biologist continued to observe chipping activities. Monarchs are beginning to fly around trees as the sun is now on the trees and temperature has risen to about 65 degrees F. Six monarchs were noted flying around the trees inside and outside the Basin fence.

The biologist noted there are approximately 13 Eucalyptus trees in a line along the opposite side of the bike path outside the Oxford Basin site. The closest of these trees is 15-20 feet from the 2 Eucalyptus trees inside the fence. The canopy is continuous between the trees inside and those outside the fence. The trees outside the fence extend east and west of the ones inside the fence. Monarchs were observed flying around the trees, moving from tree to tree, sometimes landing, sometimes flying low and sometimes high. Some monarchs appear to chase one another in a pair or trio at times. The trees both inside and outside the fence are used by the monarchs.

The biologist observed the material on the ground underneath where one of the Eucalyptus trees along the fence had been cut. No dead monarchs were observed in this material, on the leaves or the branches, or on the ground. Workers are moving the material and placing it into chipper.

9:50 am. Chipping stopped because truck was full.

10:15 am. Another truck brought in and resumed chipping. Another staff from CDM Smith arrived to assist with monitoring, observing the chipping activities.

10:55 am. Eucalyptus trees along fence are now in full sun and temperature is approximately 70 degrees F. Monarchs observed to be more active, often flying low and landing on ground. At any given time there were approximately 6 monarchs observed in the area along the fence, flying from tree to tree both inside and outside the fence. Monarchs were also observed flying to and landing on the low grassy vegetation near the water.

11:45 am. Truck is full of chips. Break for lunch.

12:15 pm. Empty truck moved inside the fence along the bike path west of the pump station. Crew began chipping the cut tree material piled nearby. Crew consists of 3 men.

12:45 pm. Biologist observed 2 monarchs flying around the 2 pines north of Basin (approximately 300 feet west of pump station). There are also 2 large Eucalyptus trees on the opposite side of the bike path here.

1:00 pm. Crews still working to chip the material west of the pump station. Biologist continued to observe monarch activity around trees next to fence near the east gate. Approximately 8 monarchs were observed, continuing to fly around the trees low and high, both inside and outside the fence.

1:15 pm. Truck was filled with woodchips, so stopped work to move the other truck in place.

2:40 pm. Began chipping again, with a crew of 7 men. Biologist continued to observe and noted there was no wildlife harmed.

3:05 pm. Truck was filled with woodchips, so stopped work to move the other truck in place.

3:15 pm. Resumed chipping.

3:20 pm. Eucalyptus trees are now completely shaded and monarch activity is decreased. 3 monarchs observed flying around the trees, but they are no longer flying near the ground.

3:30 pm. Biologist observed 7 snowy egrets foraging in the Basin near chipping activities. The birds do not appear disturbed by noise or human activity nearby. Basin is at low tide and there is a strong smell of sulfur coming from the Basin.

4:15 pm. Completed chipping activities at the site for the day. No wildlife were harmed.

## **Additional Observations**

Throughout the day, the biologist observed several birds, as listed in Table 1. As described previously, monarch butterflies were also observed. No other wildlife species were observed.

No osprey were observed at the site.

Some soil disturbance was noted in the area near the pump station. Best management practices (BMPs) such as straw wattles will be installed in areas where soil is determined to be loose prior to any predicted rain event to prevent soil from running off into Basin.

No active bird nests were observed inside the project boundary, along the bike path, or within Yvonne Burke Park near the site.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 6, 2015.

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 6, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	3 individuals foraging in Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Gull	<i>Larus</i> sp.	Several flyovers
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several observed around Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Two individuals foraging around Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed in vegetation and flying over Basin.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	2 individuals foraging in northern portion of Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	1 observed foraging in northern portion of Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	1 observed in vegetation in northern portion of Basin

## Conclusions

Biological monitoring was conducted on January 6, 2015 during tree removal (chipping) activities at the site. Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Several bird species are present, foraging around the Basin. No active nests were observed.
2. Several monarchs (up to 8 counted) were observed at the site. As noted during monitoring on the previous day, monarchs appear to be utilizing the Eucalyptus trees near the eastern end of the site, along the bike path, during cooler temperatures. During warmer temperatures (60 degrees F and higher), they are more active, flying around up high and down near the ground, sometimes landing on the ground. The monarchs appear to be opportunistic foragers; individuals were observed flying around all parts of the site. There was no "take" of monarchs during tree chipping activities conducted at the site.
3. Several (13) Eucalyptus trees are located outside the Basin fence on the opposite side of the bike path. The canopy of the trees outside the fence is continuous with those inside the fence. The trees outside the fence are more numerous and provide as dense if not denser vegetation than those inside the fence. The trees outside the fence do not appear different than those inside the fence with respect to the amount of sun they receive. Monarchs were observed flying around and landing, often moving from tree to tree both inside and outside the fence. This indicates that the Eucalyptus trees outside the fence provide directly adjacent habitat for monarchs to that afforded by the 2 trees inside the fence.



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4. Monarchs were not observed to be roosting in the large trees (Eucalyptus, ficus, and pine) on the south side of the Basin along Admiralty Way.
5. Soil disturbance was minimal and the soil is stable due to existing vegetation that remains in place as well as new vegetative growth. BMPs will be installed prior to predicted rain to prevent soil erosion.



## **Memorandum**

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 7, 2015*

*Subject: Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## **Introduction**

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 7, 2015. Monitoring is being conducted on a daily basis through completion of tree removal activities for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. This monitoring is being conducted in compliance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and Amendment issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the project.

## **Methods**

Biological monitoring was conducted by Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith biologist on January 7, 2015, beginning at 8:00 am and ending at 4:30 p.m. During the monitoring, the biologist observed tree cutting and removal activities as they were conducted in the project area. Daily activities consisted of cutting several trees and manually hauling branches and cut material and placing them into a chipper.

The following sections provide the biologist's field log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## **Biologist's Field Log**

8:00 am. Biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and met with County staff and contractors to discuss schedule for the day. One crew will begin cutting several trees located along the south side of the site along Admiralty Way. The other crew will continue chipping the cut tree material on the north side of the site in the area west of the pump station along the inside of the fence.

Biologist observed large trees along Admiralty Way and found no bird nesting activity and no active nests in the trees.

8:10 am. Contractors began using a bobcat to level the area along the fence west of the pump station to provide access for the truck and chipper.

8:30 am. The biologist conducted biological awareness training for the tree removal contractors. The biologist instructed workers about the measures to be followed to ensure no wildlife are harmed during the day's activities. The biologist described the wildlife species that may be present and the need for careful observation of the trees as they are cut and moved to ensure no contact with birds, butterflies, or other wildlife species. Contractors were instructed to stop work immediately if any wildlife are observed and to allow wildlife to move out of the area.

All crew were instructed to wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE), including hard hat, safety glasses, and orange vest.

9:00 am. Tree cutting crew began cutting a small Eucalyptus tree on the south side of the Basin. The crew is working very slowly, as instructed. One man climbs the tree with a chainsaw, attaching himself to the tree with ropes and spikes on his boots. He works with the 2 crew members on the ground to rope off the larger branches before cutting them and then slowly lowers them to the ground. The workers are all wearing proper PPE.

9:15 am. Another CDM Smith staff arrived to assist with monitoring the chipping activities on the north side of the Basin. The biologist continued to monitor tree cutting activities on the south side.

9:30 am. The 1st Eucalyptus tree was cut and crew are beginning to cut the next one. Biologist observed 2 monarch butterflies flying low near the ground in the grassy area next to the pump station, not in the vicinity of the tree cutting activities. Temperature has risen to approximately 68 degrees F.

10:35 am. Crew has completed cutting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Eucalyptus tree.

11:10 am. The chipping truck is full so chipping has stopped.

11:10 am. Tree cutting crew began cutting 3<sup>rd</sup> Eucalyptus tree.

11:30 am. Began chipping again, continuing with the material on the north side.

11:45 am. Tree cutting crew completed cutting 3<sup>rd</sup> Eucalyptus tree. The crew are proceeding with cutting up the branches and trunk with chainsaws and piling the material up for chipping.

12:15 pm. Tree cutting crew began cutting 4<sup>th</sup> Eucalyptus tree using same slow, careful procedure. This tree is at least 75 feet tall.

12:45 pm. Crew continued cutting 4<sup>th</sup> Eucalyptus tree and then took a break.

12:50 pm. Biologist observed the Eucalyptus trees along the fence near the east gate, looking for monarch butterfly activity. A total of 5 monarchs were observed over a period of about 15 minutes.

The monarchs are flying low and high. Some are keeping within the fence and others flying over the fence toward the bike path.

1:10 pm. The chipping crew stopped work because truck is full.

1:35 pm. The crew brought in an empty truck and began chipping again. CDM Smith personnel continued monitoring chipping activities while the CDM Smith biologist monitored tree cutting activities.

1:45 pm. Tree cutting crew resumed and then completed cutting 4<sup>th</sup> Eucalyptus tree. Tree cutting crew began cutting the 5<sup>th</sup> Eucalyptus tree, which is about 100 feet tall. Many protestors have arrived and are standing on the sidewalk along Admiralty Way, just on the other side of the fence from where the large Eucalyptus trees are being cut down. One of the protestors is continually blowing a whistle that sounds like an osprey calling. Biologist noted the bird call could cause wildlife disturbance. If an osprey or other birds were attracted to the area because of the call, they would be put in harm's way.

County staff stopped work, placing cones on the sidewalk and telling members of the public to move away. The police were called to assist in keeping the public away from the unsafe area. The police arrived and cleared the sidewalk so that no member of the public was in harm's way. County staff and contractors are all wearing hard hats and other protective PPE while in the vicinity of the tree cutting activities.

The biologist continued to monitor the tree cutting activities, ensuring no wildlife were present in the vicinity.

2:20 pm. A couple of the large branches of the large Eucalyptus tree fell into the edge of the water after being cut. These will be removed after tree is cut.

2:40 pm. Tree cutters still working on same large Eucalyptus tree. They are also cutting some of the lower branches on the adjacent tree, which is even larger.

2:50 pm. Tree cutters stopping work. At least half of the tree is still standing as a tall stump, with the rope left tied around the top of the stump. A larger chainsaw is needed to finish cutting that tree so it will be left for another day.

3:15 pm. Tree cutting crew began pulling the 2 large cut branches out of the water and cutting them up with chainsaws.

3:20 pm. Straw wattles were placed along the area of disturbed soil where the chipper and truck have accessed along the fence on the north side, west of the pump station.

3:30 pm. Chipping has stopped. The truck is full so chipping is done for the day. Workers continuing to cut up branches and pile them up away from the fence on the north side. Tree cutting crew is continuing to cut smaller Eucalyptus trees on the south side of the Basin.

4:20 pm. Tree cutting crew completed cutting 3 more small Eucalyptus trees and 1 small pine tree on the south side of the Basin. There are 3 large Eucalyptus trees left to be cut in this area (including the one that was half way cut today).

4:30 pm. Work was completed for the day.

No wildlife were harmed.

## Additional Observations

Throughout the day, the biologist observed several birds, as listed in Table 1. As described previously, monarch butterflies were also observed. No other wildlife species were observed.

No osprey were observed at the site.

There has been some soil disturbance along the fence west of the pump station. The disturbed soil is over 50 feet from the edge of the water and there is some grassy vegetation in the area downslope of the disturbed soil. Straw wattles were placed in this area to prevent soil from running off into Basin.

No active bird nests were observed inside the project boundary, along the bike path, or within Yvonne Burke Park near the site.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 7, 2015.

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 7, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	5 individuals foraging in Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals foraging in Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Gull	<i>Larus</i> sp.	Several flyovers
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several observed around Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Two individuals foraging around Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed in vegetation and flying over Basin.
Bushtit	<i>Psaltirparus minimus</i>	Several observed foraging on north side of Basin.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	2 individuals foraging in northern portion of

		Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	1 observed foraging in northern portion of Basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Several observed foraging in eastern portion of Basin.
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	1 observed in vegetation in northern portion of Basin

## Conclusions

Biological monitoring was conducted on January 7, 2015 during tree removal (chipping) activities at the site. Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Several bird species are present, foraging around the Basin. No active nests were observed.
2. Several monarchs were observed at the site. The number of monarchs observed on January 7 appeared to be lower than on previous days. Monarchs continue to be primarily utilizing the Eucalyptus trees near the eastern end of the site, along the bike path; however, individuals were observed flying around other parts of the site. There was no "take" of monarchs during tree cutting or chipping activities conducted at the site.
3. As noted previously, monarchs were again observed flying around and landing, often moving from tree to tree both inside and outside the fence. This indicates that the Eucalyptus trees outside the fence provide directly adjacent habitat for monarchs to that afforded by the 2 trees inside the fence.
4. Monarchs were not observed to be roosting in the large trees (Eucalyptus, ficus, and pine) on the south side of the Basin along Admiralty Way.
5. Soil disturbance was noted along the fence west of the pump station where the area was cleared for truck and chipper access. The disturbed soil is over 50 feet from the edge of the water and there is some grassy vegetation in the area downslope of the disturbed soil. Straw waddles were placed along the disturbed soil to prevent soil erosion.



## **Memorandum**

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 8, 2015*

*Subject: Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## **Introduction**

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 8, 2015. Monitoring is being conducted on a daily basis through completion of tree removal activities for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. This monitoring is being conducted in compliance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and Amendment issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the project.

## **Methods**

Biological monitoring was conducted by Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith biologist on January 8, 2015, beginning at 8:30 am and ending at 3:50 p.m. During the monitoring, the biologist observed tree cutting and removal activities as they were conducted in the project area. Daily activities consisted of manually hauling branches and cut material and placing them into a chipper.

The following sections provide the biologist's field log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## **Biologist's Field Log**

8:30 am. Biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and entered east gate to observe trees for monarchs. No monarchs were found roosting in the Eucalyptus trees. One monarch was flying around the trees and flew over fence toward bike path. The temperature is about 60 degrees F and clear.

Contractors are waiting for empty truck to arrive to begin chipping the cut material. The same crew is working on the chipping today as yesterday, but there is no tree cutting crew today.

9:15 am. Biologist noted male Anna's hummingbird doing a courtship display near the pine trees along the fence on the north side of the Basin. Two or 3 males and 1 female was observed in the area. No nests were found.

9:30 am. Truck was moved into place along the fence on the north side of the Basin and contractors began placing the cut material into the chipper. Biologist observed the activities to ensure no wildlife were harmed.

10:35 am. Chipping was stopped because truck was full.

10:45 am. Biologist walked along bike path by pump station to observe monarch activity. Three monarchs were observed flying around low along the pike path, sometimes flying up and landing on trees outside of the site fence.

11:05 am. Contractors resumed chipping the cut trees, moving a bit further west along the fence on the north side as the piles of material are chipped. Biologist continued to observe the activities.

12:00 pm. Chipping was stopped because truck was full. Contractors will take a lunch break.

12:50 pm. Contractors resumed chipping with biologist observing.

1:35 pm. Chipping was stopped because truck was full.

1:45 pm. Biologist walked to the Eucalyptus trees inside the fence by the bike path. Two monarchs were observed flying low below the trees. Monarch activity was minimal, perhaps because it is a bit windier today than the previous days and a bit cooler, about 68 degrees F.

2:15. Contractors resumed chipping with biologist observing.

3:35 pm. Chipping was stopped because truck was full. Work was completed for the day.

No wildlife were harmed.

## **Additional Observations**

Throughout the day, the biologist observed several birds, as listed in Table 1. As described previously, monarch butterflies were also observed. No other wildlife species were observed.

No osprey were observed at the site.

There was little additional soil disturbance caused by access for the truck and chipper along the fence on the north side of the site. Straw wattles remain in place in this area to prevent soil from running off into Basin.

No active bird nests were observed inside the project boundary, along the bike path, or within Yvonne Burke Park near the site.



Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 8, 2015.

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 8, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	6 individuals foraging in Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals foraging in Basin
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	1 individual foraging in northwest portion of Basin along shoreline
Gull	<i>Larus sp.</i>	Several flyovers
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several observed around Basin
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several foraging in northern portion of Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed flying over Basin.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	2 individuals foraging in northern portion of Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several foraging in northern portion of Basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Several foraging in northern portion of Basin
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	2 or 3 individuals observed in Eucalyptus trees along bike path near east gate

## Conclusions

Biological monitoring was conducted on January 8, 2015 during tree removal (chipping) activities at the site. Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Several bird species are present, foraging around the Basin. No active nests were observed.
2. Several monarchs were observed at the site. The number of monarchs observed on January 8 appeared to be lower than on previous days. Monarchs continue to be primarily utilizing the Eucalyptus trees near the eastern end of the site, along the bike path; however, individuals were observed flying around other parts of the site. There was no "take" of monarchs during tree cutting or chipping activities conducted at the site.
3. As noted previously, monarchs were again observed flying around and landing, often moving from tree to tree both inside and outside the fence. This indicates that the Eucalyptus trees outside the fence provide directly adjacent habitat for monarchs to that afforded by the 2 trees inside the fence.

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4. Straw wattles remain in place to prevent erosion from the area of disturbed soil along the fence in the northern portion of the site where the truck and chipper is driven.



## **Memorandum**

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 9, 2015*

*Subject: Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## **Introduction**

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 9, 2015. Monitoring is being conducted on a daily basis through completion of tree removal activities for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. This monitoring is being conducted in compliance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and Amendment issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the project.

## **Methods**

Biological monitoring was conducted by Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith biologist on January 9, 2015, beginning at 7:30 am and ending at 3:10 p.m. During the monitoring, the biologist observed tree cutting and removal activities as they were conducted in the project area. Daily activities consisted of cutting several trees and manually hauling branches and cut material and placing them into a chipper.

The following sections provide the biologist's field log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## **Biologist's Field Log**

7:30 am. Biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and entered east gate to observe trees for monarchs. No monarchs were found roosting in the Eucalyptus trees. The temperature was about 58 degrees F and overcast.

A second CDM Smith staff arrived who will be monitoring chipping activities while biologist monitors tree cutting activities.

8:00 am. Some of the contractor crew arrived and began hauling cut material toward the east along the fence on the north portion of the site to where the chipper is parked. Crew is waiting for truck to arrive and more crew to begin chipping the cut material.

8:10 am. Biologist pointed out to the other CDM Smith staff member the location of 3 inactive or old nests (basically bundles of sticks) in the Eucalyptus trees along the bike path. These could have been used by herons or other waterbirds in the past, or could have been used by crows. One of the potential nests is in one of the trees inside the fence. None of the nests are active.

8:45 am. An osprey flew to the Basin and perched on a utility pole that is located on the western peninsula that juts into the Basin along the north side. The bird appeared to be eating a fish, and only stayed a few minutes before flying off toward the south.

9:15 am. Chipping crew arrived. One of the crew members is new to the site so the biologist conducted training for the new crew member. The biologist described the wildlife species that may be present and the need for careful observation of the trees as they are moved to ensure no contact with birds, butterflies, or other wildlife species. The biologist explained that monarch butterflies are present and care must be taken to avoid harming them. The crew was instructed to stop work immediately if any wildlife are observed and to allow wildlife to move out of the area. The new crew member signed in after training.

9:30 am. Tree cutting crew arrived. As before, 1 man will climb up and cut the trees while the other assists on the ground. Biologist reminded the crew about the wildlife present and instructed them to move slowly and carefully to avoid harming any wildlife that may be in the vicinity.

9:40 am. Tree cutting crew began cutting a pine tree located on the south side. The biologist noted a pair of Anna's hummingbirds in the upper part of the tree. The biologist instructed the crew to stop so the Anna's hummingbirds could be observed further. The male was flying around the tree, flying away and then back. The female flew around a bit but stayed near the tree. The female Anna's hummingbird did not appear to want to move away. The biologist searched for a nest in the tree but could not find a nest. The female was not flying around much but remained in the tree. The biologist instructed the crew to move on to the next tree until it could be determined if the hummingbirds were nesting in the pine tree.

9:55 am. Tree cutting crew began cutting the Ficus tree to the west of the pine on the south side of the Basin. The biologist observed the cutting activities and noted no birds were in the tree or in the vicinity.

10:45 am. Tree cutting crew completed cutting the Ficus tree. The crew proceeded to cut up the large branches underneath the Ficus with a chainsaw.

Biologist walked back over to observe the pine tree. The female Anna's hummingbird was still perched in the tree, near the center. Occasionally, the male flew over and darted in and out near the top of the tree. The biologist could not locate a nest. If there is a nest present, it is likely located in the most dense part of the tree, near the top in the portion that is on the water side.

11:00 am. Chipping has stopped. Chipper and truck moved to western peninsula, inside gate on the short driveway there. CDM Smith staff continued to observe the chipping while the biologist observed tree cutting activities.

11:55 am. Tree cutters continuing to cut up the Ficus material on the ground. Biologist observed the female Anna's hummingbird still in the pine tree.

12:10 pm. Chipping stopped as truck is full. Tree cutters stopped to take a break.

12:15 pm. Biologist observed the Eucalyptus trees along the bike path inside the fence. Two monarchs were observed flying low under the trees inside the fence.

12:45 pm. Biologist walked to eastern peninsula and observed several male Anna's hummingbirds. Birds are establishing territory, chasing each other. No females were observed and no nesting activity was observed.

1:15 pm. Chipping resumed on western peninsula area with CDM Smith personnel observing.

Tree cutting crew began cutting up the large standing stump of the previously cut Eucalyptus tree. This is the easternmost Eucalyptus tree along the south side of the site.

1:40 pm. Biologist observed the Eucalyptus trees inside the fence near the east gate for monarch activity. Seven monarchs were observed flying around, sometimes flying up and landing on trees inside and outside of the site fence, also landing on the ground inside the site fence. Sometimes pairs of monarchs chased each other as they flew. The temperature was around 68 degrees F and the area was partially in sun with many clouds in the sky.

Chipper and truck was moved to western gate. Workers began hauling the cut debris on the south side over to the chipper. CDM Smith personnel observed the work for wildlife presence.

1:50 pm. Tree cutters completed cutting up the Eucalyptus stump and moved to the eastern peninsula to begin cutting palm trees there.

2:00 pm. Tree cutters moved their truck to the eastern peninsula and prepared to cut palm trees, starting with the 2 large ones. There are approximately 25 palm trees in this area. Most are small, but there are some that are fairly tall (~30 feet).

2:35 pm. Tree cutters completed cutting the first large palm with the biologist observing. Proceeded with the next palm and also cutting up the fallen trees with chainsaws.

3:00 pm. Tree cutters have completed cutting 7<sup>th</sup> palm tree on the eastern peninsula.

3:05 pm. Biologist prepared to leave site for the day. CDM Smith assistant will continue to observe palm trees being cut at the east peninsula. Chipping was stopped because truck was full.

3:10 pm. Biologist left site.

No wildlife were harmed.

## Additional Observations

Throughout the day, the biologist observed several birds, as listed in Table 1. As described previously, monarch butterflies were also observed. No other wildlife species were observed.

An osprey was observed briefly perching and eating a fish on a utility pole at the site.

There was little additional soil disturbance caused by access for the truck and chipper along the fence on the north side of the site. Straw wattles remain in place in this area to prevent soil from running off into Basin.

Anna's hummingbird activity was noted by the biologist in one of the pines to be removed along the south side of the site. The pine was not cut down. A CDM Smith biologist will continue to monitor the hummingbird activity for possible active nesting in the pine. If an active nest is found in the pine tree, the tree will not be cut and a buffer zone around the nest will be established to avoid disturbing the nest. No active bird nests were observed in other trees at the site or along the bike path.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 9, 2015.

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 9, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	8 individuals foraging in Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin. One appears to have a broken right wing.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals foraging in Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 individual briefly landed on utility pole on the western portion of the site, eating a fish
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	1 individual foraging in northwest portion of Basin along shoreline
Gull	<i>Larus</i> sp.	Several flyovers
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several observed around Basin

Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several foraging around Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed flying over Basin.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	1 individual foraging in northern portion of Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several foraging in northern portion of Basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Several foraging in northern portion of Basin

## Conclusions

Biological monitoring was conducted on January 9, 2015 during tree cutting and chipping activities at the site. Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Several bird species are present, foraging around the Basin. As described above, potential breeding activity by Anna's hummingbirds was noted in one of the pines to be removed along the south side of the site. The pine was not cut down. A CDM Smith biologist will continue to monitor the hummingbird activity for possible active nesting in the pine. If an active nest is found in the pine tree, the tree will not be cut and a buffer zone around the nest will be established to avoid disturbing the nest. No active bird nests were observed in other trees at the site or along the bike path.
2. Several monarchs were observed at the site (7 were counted). As noted on previous days, monarchs continue to be primarily utilizing the Eucalyptus trees near the eastern end of the site, along the bike path; however, individuals were observed flying around other parts of the site. There was no "take" of monarchs during tree cutting or chipping activities conducted at the site.
3. As noted previously, monarchs were again observed flying around and landing, often moving from tree to tree both inside and outside the fence. This indicates that the Eucalyptus trees outside the fence provide directly adjacent habitat for monarchs to that afforded by the 2 trees inside the fence.
4. Straw waddles remain in place to prevent erosion from the area of disturbed soil along the fence in the northern portion of the site where the truck and chipper is driven.